

REMARKS

According to the Office Action, claims 1 – 3, 5 – 7, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 USC 101. To expedite the prosecution of the application and without conceding any statements or waiving any arguments in the Office Action, claim 1 is amended to recite one of the four statutory categories. Claim 1 is now in full compliance with 35 USC 101. Since claims 2, 3, 5 – 7, 9 and 10 are rejected by virtue of their dependency only, those claims are also fully compliant with 35 USC 101. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Further according to the Office Action, claims 15 and 17 are rejected under 35 USC 112. To expedite the prosecution of the application and without conceding any statements or waiving any arguments in the Office Action, claims 15 and 17 are canceled without prejudice, thereby making the rejection moot.

According to the Office Action, Claims 18 – 20 are allowed. Further according to the Office Action, claims 1 – 3, 5 – 7 and 9 – 14 are distinguishable over the prior art of record.

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the examiner's correspondence and advance the prosecution of this case. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any additional fees associated with this application to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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